



# Spanish

## Language Builder

Michel Thomas

Learn another language the way you learnt your own



### **Michel Thomas, 1914–2005**

Michel Thomas, the internationally renowned linguist and language teacher, who was awarded the Silver Star by the US Army for his bravery in the Second World War, died of heart failure at his home in New York on 8th January 2005. He was 90.

### **To find out more, please get in touch with us**

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# ***Introduction***

## **Who was Michel Thomas?**

Michel Thomas was head of the Michel Thomas Language Centers and taught languages for over fifty years, primarily in New York, Beverly Hills, and London. He was a graduate of the Department of Philology at the University of Bordeaux, France, and studied psychology at the Sorbonne (Paris) and at the University of Vienna. However, it was his remarkable life experiences that fuelled his passion for teaching languages\*.

Michel spent most of his childhood in Germany and France. With the rise of Hitler, he began his years of escape and resistance. He spent two brutal years in French concentration and slave labour camps, constantly threatened by deportation to German death camps. He escaped and fought for the French Resistance, surviving capture, interrogation and torture.

Michel's wartime experiences, particularly his torture by the Gestapo when he discovered the ability to block out pain, made him aware of the untapped potential of the human mind. However, it was his deeply held conviction that the biggest weapon in maintaining a free society was education that drove him to devote his life to probing the learning process. Michel moved to Los Angeles in 1947, and he set up a language institute in Beverly Hills. Over a period of fifty years, he developed a unique and revolutionary learning system that made him the world's leading language teacher.

## **What is the Michel Thomas method?**

Over a period of fifty years, Michel Thomas developed and perfected a unique method of teaching languages\*\*. In essence, he breaks a language down to its component parts and enables learners to reconstruct the language themselves to form their own sentences, to say what they want, when they want. The experience of learning a language becomes so exciting and satisfying that it stimulates self-motivation and builds confidence.

*\*For a full account of his fascinating life, read 'Michel Thomas: The Test of Courage' by Christopher Robbins, published by Hodder and Stoughton*

*\*\*U.S. patent 6,565,358*

**Who is the *Spanish Language Builder* for?****People who have already learned Spanish with Michel Thomas**

The *Language Builder* does just what its name suggests: it builds on the language Michel teaches in his Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses. It does this in two important and inseparable ways: by echoing the Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses to review key structures, while at the same time presenting new idioms (which are heard and used all the time in everyday Spanish but which are very rarely taught). This dual approach means that you painlessly review what you have learned as you simultaneously expand the range of your working and functional knowledge of the language.

**People who have learned Spanish using other methods**

You may have learned Spanish before and now want to brush it up for a holiday or business trip, or perhaps you are looking for a new approach to help with revision or to re-motivate you: either way, the *Language Builder* will give you a real insight into how the language works and will boost your confidence to speak.

You may find that it takes a while to get used to Michel's innovative way of teaching – it is certainly quite unlike any other method you will have come across – but once you have experienced the excitement of painless learning you will be hooked!

**What does the pack contain?**

The pack comprises approximately two hours of recorded material plus a booklet. The recordings are available on CD or audio cassette and feature Michel Thomas alone. To avoid wasting recording time, there are no pauses on the recordings, but you are strongly recommended to use the pause button on your player for maximum learning (see below). The booklet contains the key words and phrases to help you with written Spanish, but you do not need to use it at all if you just want to concentrate on improving your speaking and listening skills.

### **How do I use the recordings?**

- **Relax!**

As far as possible, make yourself comfortable before playing the recordings and try to let go of the tensions and anxieties traditionally associated with all learning.

- **Interact fully with the recordings**

Use the pause button to stop the recording so that you have time to think out your translations. Then say the phrase or sentence out loud (or in a whisper, or in your head, if you are in a public place), before Michel does. This is essential. You do not learn by repetition but by thinking out the sentences yourself; it is by your own thought process that you truly learn.

- **Stop the recording whenever it suits you**

You will notice that the recordings are not divided into lessons\*\*\* so it is easy to stop wherever you want.

### **What level of language will I achieve?**

The recordings will give you a practical and functional use of the spoken language. Michel Thomas teaches the everyday conversational language that will allow you to communicate in a wide variety of situations, empowered by the ability to create your own sentences and use the language naturally.

### **How can I go on to improve further?**

Obviously, nothing compares with first-hand contact with native Spanish speakers, but if this is not possible for you, and if you have mastered the language in the Foundation (8-hour) and Advanced courses, Michel recommends reading Spanish newspapers and magazines as one of the best ways to keep up and extend your language. Interviews are particularly good, as they reflect Spanish as it is actually being spoken, rather than the language taught in schools or textbooks. You could also try the Michel Thomas Method Vocabulary courses. See the back of the booklet for details.

*\*\*\*Tracking breaks have been inserted on the CDs: you may find it helpful to make a note of these (or the timings, if you have audio cassettes) in this booklet to help you get back immediately to where you left off or to review specific points*

### Who has Michel Thomas taught?

People came from all over the world to learn a foreign language with Michel Thomas – because his method works. His students, numbering in the thousands, included well-known people from the arts and from the corporate, political and academic worlds. Michel's list of clients included:

- *Celebrities*: Emma Thompson, Woody Allen, Barbra Streisand, Warren Beatty, Melanie Griffith, Eddie Izzard, Bob Dylan, Jean Marsh, Donald Sutherland, Mrs George Harrison, Anne Bancroft, Mel Brooks, Nastassja Kinski, Carl Reiner, Raquel Welch, Johnny Carson, Julie Andrews, Isabelle Adjani, Candice Bergen, Barbara Hershey, Priscilla Presley, Loretta Swit, Tony Curtis, Diana Ross, Herb Alpert, Angie Dickinson, Lucille Ball, Doris Day, Janet Leigh, Natalie Wood, Jayne Mansfield, Ann-Margaret, Yves Montand, Kim Novak, Otto Preminger, Max Von Sydow, Peter Sellers, François Truffaut, Sofia Coppola.
- *Diplomats, dignitaries and academics*: US Ambassador to France, Walter Curley; US Ambassador to the UN, Joseph V. Reed; Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York; Anthony Cardinal Bevilacqua, Archbishop of Philadelphia; Armand Hammer; Sarah Ferguson, Duchess of York; Professor Herbert Morris, Dean of Humanities at UCLA; Warren Keegan, Professor of Business at Pace University in New York; Professor Wesley Posvar, President of the University of Pittsburgh.
- *Executives from the following corporations*: AT&T International, Coca-Cola, Procter & Gamble, Chase Manhattan Bank, American Express, Merrill Lynch, New York Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Boeing Aircraft, General Electric, Westinghouse Electric, Bank of America, Max Factor, Rand Corporation, Bertelsmann Music Group-RCA, Veuve Clicquot Inc., McDonald's Corporation, Rover, British Aerospace.

### What do his students say?

Academy® award winning director and actress, **Emma Thompson** (as quoted in the *Guardian*): 'The excitement of learning something new was overwhelming. Michel not only taught me Spanish, he opened my eyes to

the possibilities of a completely different kind of learning. Michel forbids his students to practise, or to try to remember. Michel takes the burden off the student and upon himself... Learning Spanish with Michel was the most extraordinary learning experience of my life – it was unforgettable.'

New York film-maker **Woody Allen**, (as quoted in *USA Today* and *Business Life*): 'I am a poor student, particularly with languages. I had years of Spanish in school and could never speak a word... (but) learning with Michel: it's like a kid who loves baseball and who just knows every ball player, every batting average, every statistic about the game. They've learned it all effortlessly. It's the same with Michel. You learn a language effortlessly. It is amazing. (He)...had me speaking French and I learned it in a way I've never forgotten, and it was painless. A tremendous experience.'

### **Customer feedback**

'I am writing to congratulate you on the highly original and successful language courses by Michel Thomas; I am currently working on German and French while my daughter, at my suggestion, has bought the Italian course.'

*R Harris*

'I have now finished the eight cassette Italian course and would like to say how pleased I am with it. I am a scientist, with all my neurones in the side of my brain that deals with understanding, and next to none on the side that deals with memory. This has meant my ability to retain vocabulary and learn a language has been about as bad as it comes. Against all odds, the Michel Thomas course has left me with a real sense of achievement, and a tremendous basis for further progress in learning Italian.'

*T A Whittingham*

# Recording 1

## Vamos a comenzar / vamos a empezar

comenzamos / empezamos

empecemos

Me gusta ...

Me gusta estar aquí

*We are going to start*

*we're going to start*

*let's start*

*I like ...*

*I like to be here*

## Quiero hacerlo pero ...

*I want to do it but ...*

lo haré, lo hará *I will do it, he/she/you will do it*

**no lo haré**, no voy a hacerlo  
hoy porque ...

*I won't do it, I won't do it  
today because*

... estoy muy ocupado

*... I'm very busy*

... estoy demasiado ocupado ...

*... I'm too busy*

... para hacerlo

*... to do it*

## Tengo ganas de ...

*I feel like ...*

Tengo ganas de hacerlo

*I feel like doing it*

No tengo ganas de ir allí

*I don't feel like going there*

No tengo ganas de quedarme aquí

*I don't feel like staying here*

Tengo ganas de salir

*I feel like going out*

## Me parece que ...

*It seems to me that, I think that ...*

creo que ..., pienso que ...

*I believe that ..., I think that ...*

Me parece que ella no tiene  
ganas de ir allí

*It seems to me that she doesn't  
feel like going there*

## Estoy de acuerdo con usted

*I agree with you*

De acuerdo

*OK, agreed*

No estoy de acuerdo con él

*I don't agree with him*

¿Cuál es su opinión?

*What is your opinion?*

¿Cuál es tu opinión?

*What is your opinion?*

¿Qué piensa?

*What do you think?*

¿Qué piensas, Roberto?

¿Qué piensan ustedes?

## Me interesa

*It interests me*

Me interesa mucho, muchísimo

*It interests me a lot, very much*

Desafortunadamente no me interesa

*Unfortunately it doesn't interest me*



<b>Creo que ...</b>	<i>I think that ...</i>
Creo que él va a estar allí ...	<i>I think that he will be there ...</i>
... esta tarde	<i>... this afternoon</i>
Es demasiado tarde para hacerlo	<i>It's too late to do it</i>
tarde means 'late' as well as 'afternoon'; es tarde is 'it is late'	
Creo que él va a estar aquí esta noche	<i>I think that he is going to be here tonight</i>
Veremos, vamos a ver	<i>We will see</i>
<b>No será posible ...</b>	<i>It won't be possible ...</i>
... hacerlo así	<i>... to do it like this, in this way</i>
No lo creo	<i>I don't think so, I don't believe it</i>
<b>Seguro</b> , seguramente	<i>sure, surely</i>
<b>Claro</b>	<i>Of course</i>
Naturalmente	<i>Naturally</i>
Claro que estoy seguro	<i>Of course I'm sure</i>
<b>Mira / Mire ...</b>	<i>Look ...</i>
... está sobre la mesa	<i>... it's on the table</i>
¿Puede ponerlo, podría ponerlo ...	<i>Will / Can you put it, could you put it ...</i>
... debajo de la mesa?	<i>... under the table?</i>
<b>Es necesario ...</b>	<i>It is necessary ...</i>
<b>Tenemos que ...</b>	<i>We have to ...</i>
<b>Hay que ...</b>	<i>One must ...</i>
... ir allí	<i>... to go there</i>
No es necesario / No hay que comprarlo ...	<i>It is not necessary to buy it ...</i>
... porque es muy caro	<i>... because it is very expensive</i>
<b>Necesito, lo necesito</b>	<i>I need, I need it</i>
No lo necesito ahora	<i>I don't need it now</i>
Es todo lo que necesito	<i>It is all I need</i>
Note the use of lo que in the middle of the sentence (literally 'all what I need')	
Esto / Eso es todo lo que necesito	<i>This / That is all I need</i>
Es todo lo que quiero	<i>It is all I want</i>
¿Esto es todo lo que quiere?	<i>Is this all you want?</i>
Quiero algo más	<i>I want something else</i>

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¿Necesita algo más?

*Do you need anything else?*

No gracias, esto es todo

*No thank you, that's all*

**¿Puede mostrarme ...?**

*Will you / Can you show me?*

Sí, voy a mostrarle, le muestro

*Yes, I'll show you*

PRESENT TENSE USED FOR FUTURE

mostrar *means 'to show'*

muestro *means 'I show, I'll show'; le muestro, 'I'll show you'*

*The future is often expressed by the present tense in Spanish*

**¿Puede / podría decirme ...**

*Will you / Can you / Could you tell me ...*

... a qué hora va a estar listo?

*... what time it is going to be ready?*

... a qué hora estará listo?

*... what time it will be ready?*

**Voy a informarme**

*I will find out*

*(literally, inform myself)*

Necesito cierta información

*I need certain information*

Tengo que informarme

*I have to find out*

Voy a decirle mañana, le diré mañana

*I will tell you tomorrow*

poder *means 'to be able';* podré *I will be able*

**No voy a poder**, no podré ...

*I will not be able ...*

... hacerlo

*... to do it*

No podrá venir con nosotros

*He will not be able to come with us*

No va a poder venir con nosotros

*He isn't going to be able to come with us*

buscar *means 'to look for'*

**Lo busco**, lo estoy buscando ...

*I am looking for it ...*

**... pero no puedo encontrarlo**

*... but I can't find it*

**¿Tiene algo para mí?**

*Do you have something for me?*

**No, no tengo nada**

*No, I don't have anything.*

*I have nothing*

Ya no tengo más

*I don't have it any longer, any more*

Hay un mensaje para usted

*There is a message for you*

Hay unos mensajes para usted

*There are some messages for you*

¿Hay mensajes para mí?

*Are there messages for me?*

¿Hay algún mensaje para mí?

*Is there any message for me?*

Sí, hay algunos

*Yes, there are some*

**¿Cuánto es?**

¿Cuánto es esto / eso?  
 ¿Cuánto cuesta?  
 ¿Cuál es el precio?  
 ¿Cuánto vale?  
 No vale mucho  
 ¿Cuánto le debo?

*How much is it?*  
*How much is this / that?*  
*How much does it cost?*  
*What is the price?*  
*How much is it worth?*  
*It's not worth much*  
*How much do I owe you?*

*debo means 'I must, I'm supposed to, I should'*  
*¿Qué debo hacer? is 'What should I do?'*  
*Debo salir is 'I must go out'*

**Está muy bien**

Está bien así

*It's fine, all right*  
*It's OK like this*

Me parece que / creo que ...  
 ... va a decidir / decidirá hacerlo

*I think that ...*  
*... he will decide to do it*

**Voy a hacerlo ...**

... inmediatamente / ahora mismo  
 ... en seguida

*I'm going to do it ...*  
*... immediately / right now*  
*... right away*

**Quiero hacerlo**

*I want to do it*

**Me gustaría hacerlo**

*I would like to do it*

*me gusta means 'I like', me gustaría 'I would like'*

Me gustaría saber ...  
 ... a qué hora ...  
 ... él puede / podrá / podría ...  
 ... estar aquí

*I would like to know ...*  
*... at what time ...*  
*... he can / will be able to / could ...*  
*... be here*

*olvidar means 'to forget'*

**No olvidaré** / no voy a olvidar ...  
 ... decirle / darle

*I will not forget ...*  
*... to tell / to give you / him / her / them*  
*... to give it to you / him / her / them*

**... dárselo**

Voy a dárselo a usted  
 Tengo ganas de hacerlo ...  
 ... pero no sé si puedo hacerlo ahora

*I'm going to give it to you*  
*I feel like doing it ...*  
*... but I don't know if I can do it now*

**No vale la pena ...**

*It's not worth the trouble ...*

**... ir allí**

*... to go there / going there*

Podemos ir allí si quiere / si quieres  
 ¿Quiere / quieres venir conmigo?  
 Me gustaría ir con usted / contigo  
 ¿Le gustaría / Te gustaría venir  
 conmigo?

Sí, claro que sí / ¿cómo no?  
 Me gustaría mucho  
 Con mucho gusto  
 Gracias por su gentileza  
 De acuerdo / Vale  
 Esto / Eso me gusta  
 Es una buena idea  
 Tiene razón  
 Tiene toda la razón  
 Tiene razón y estoy de acuerdo  
 con usted

**Me gusta quedarme aquí ...**

... porque estoy cansado  
 Me gusta descansar

**Voy a descansar ...**

... un poco / un rato  
 ... porque estoy muy cansado

¿Vale la pena ir a verlo esta noche?  
 No, no vale la pena

**¡Es increíble!**

No lo creo  
 Es increíble lo que me dice  
 Es magnífico / extraordinario  
 Es excelente  
 Esto es muy interesante

Me interesa mucho verlo  
 Estoy muy interesado  
 Me interesa mucho ir a verlo  
 Ella es encantadora  
 Me gusta mucho ir allí con usted

*We can go there if you want  
 Do you want to come with me?  
 I'd like to go with you  
 Would you like to come  
 with me?*

*Yes, of course / why not?  
 I'd like to very much  
 With much pleasure  
 That's nice of you  
 Agreed, OK  
 This / That pleases me, I like it  
 It's a good idea  
 You are right  
 You are quite right  
 You are right and I agree  
 with you*

*I like to stay / staying here ...  
 ... because I'm tired  
 I like to rest*

*I'm going to rest ...  
 ... for a little / for a while  
 ... because I'm very tired*

*Is it worth going to see it tonight?  
 No, it's not worth it*

*It's incredible!  
 I don't believe it  
 It's incredible what you're telling me  
 It's great / magnificent / extraordinary  
 It's excellent  
 This is very interesting*

*It interests me a lot to see it  
 I am very interested  
 I'm very interested to go and see it  
 She is very charming, lovely, nice  
 I like very much to go there with you*

**Lo siento****Siento decirle ...**

... que no puedo ir a verlo  
 ... con usted / contigo esta noche  
 Siento decirle ...

... que no podría ir a verlo

... porque estoy muy ocupado  
 ... porque estaré, voy a estar  
 muy ocupado

Tengo que hacerlo

**Tendría que hacerlo**

Tiene que hacerlo

Tendría que hacerlo

Tendríamos que ir allí

Tendría que decirme

Debería hacerlo

Debería esperarme

Me gusta mucho / Me encanta viajar

de vacaciones *means 'on holiday'*

Creo que me voy de vacaciones ...

... primero a España

... y luego, más tarde a Italia

Me gustaría ...

... verle / ir a verlo

**Creo que voy a salir** pronto ...

... porque no puedo esperar

¿Cuándo cree que va a salir?

**Pienso salir** pronto

¿Cuándo piensa salir?

**Espero salir** pronto

¿Cuánto tiempo piensa ...

... quedarse en Madrid?

Pienso quedarme una semana  
 en España

*I'm sorry*

*I'm sorry to tell you ...*

*... that I can't go to see it*

*... with you tonight*

*... I'm sorry to tell you ...*

*... that I wouldn't be able to go  
 and see it*

*... because I'm very busy*

*... I shall be / I'm going to be  
 very busy*

*I have to do it*

*I would have to do it*

*He has to do it*

*He would have to do it*

*We would have to go there*

*You should tell me*

*I should do it*

*You should wait for me*

*I like very much to travel*

*I think I'm going on holiday ...*

*... first to Spain*

*... and then, later to Italy*

*I would like ...*

*... to see him / to go and see him*

*I think I'm going to leave soon ...*

*... because I can't wait*

*When do you think you will leave?*

*I think I'll leave soon*

*When do you think you'll leave?*

*I hope to leave soon*

*How long do you think ...*

*... you'll stay in Madrid?*

*I think I'll stay a week in Spain*

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Tengo ganas de ...	<i>I feel like ...</i>
... ir al cine esta noche	<i>... going to the cinema tonight</i>
... para ver una película	<i>... (in order) to see a film, a picture</i>
una película interesante	<i>an interesting picture</i>
Ella no tiene ganas de ir allí	<i>She doesn't feel like going there ...</i>
... esta noche, quizás mañana	<i>... tonight, perhaps tomorrow</i>
Pienso salir / irme ...	<i>I think I'll leave / go away ...</i>
... la semana que viene	<i>... next week</i>
... el mes que viene	<i>... next month</i>
... o en dos semanas	<i>... or in two weeks</i>
Quiero tenerlo	<i>I want to have it</i>
Voy a comprarlo	<i>I'm going to buy it</i>
<b>No voy a comprarlo</b> porque ...	<i>I'm not going to buy it because ...</i>
... es demasiado caro	<i>... it's too expensive</i>
... es muy caro	<i>... it's very expensive</i>
<b>No pienso</b> comprarlo	<i>I don't plan to buy it</i>

pensar 'to think' is used for planning  
esperar 'to hope' also means 'to expect'

**No tengo la intención de** comprarlo *I don't intend to buy it*

PRONUNCIATION OF LETTER 'C'

The letter 'c' followed by 'i' or 'e' is pronounced 'th' in Castilian Spanish but 's' in other parts of the Spanish-speaking world. But before 'a', 'o', 'u' it is always 'k'.  
You'll hear 'intenthión' in Castilian Spanish, but 'intensión' in many other parts of Spain and in Latin America. Another example: 'Barthelona' and 'Barselona'.

No tengo la intención de hacerlo *I don't intend to do it*

ENGLISH WORDS ENDING IN '-TION'

Lots of words ending in -tion in English end in -ción in Spanish.  
Other examples: condición, reservación, confirmación, etc.

Pienso ir allí con usted	<i>I plan to go there with you</i>
Espero ir allí con usted	<i>I expect / I hope to go there with you</i>
Voy a tomarlo	<i>I'm going to take it</i>
Va a estar listo pronto	<i>It will be ready soon</i>
<b>¿A qué hora ...</b>	<i>At what time ...</i>
... va a estar aquí?	<i>... are you going to be here?</i>

**No tengo tiempo de hacerlo**

No tiene tiempo de hacerlo

No tenemos tiempo de hacerlo

¿Cuánto tiempo tiene?

**No sé cuándo ...**

... va a estar / estará listo

**Creo que ...**

... va a estar / estará listo pronto

*I don't have time to do it**He doesn't have time to do it**We don't have time to do it**How much time do you have?**I don't know when ...**... it will be ready**I think ...**... it will be ready soon*abrir *means 'to open'; abro is 'I open', 'I'm opening'*cerrar *means 'to close'; cierro is 'I close', 'I'm closing'*

¿Debo abrir la ventana?

**¿Abro la ventana?**

Cierro la puerta

**¿Cierro la puerta?***Should I open the window?**Shall I open the window?**I'm closing the door**Shall I close the door?*

## ASKING QUESTIONS

*All you have to do to change a statement (I'm closing the door) into a question (Shall I close the door?) is to make it sound like a question, with the right inflexion in your voice. The order of the words doesn't change.**In written Spanish you put a question mark ¿ at the beginning as well as ? at the end of the question.*

Le espero

**¿Le espero?****¿Le acompaño?****¿Voy / vengo con usted?**

Le llamo más tarde / mañana

**¿Le llamo más tarde?**

Salimos

**¿Salimos?**

Vamos a hacerlo

**¿Qué vamos a hacer?**

Yo sé que no va a poder hacerlo

Tengo que ir a verlo

Voy a ir a verlo

**Iba a verlo**

Iba a hacerlo

*I'm waiting for you**Shall I wait for you?**Shall I accompany you?**Shall I go / come with you?**I'll call you later / tomorrow**Shall I call you later?**We are leaving**Shall we leave?**We are going to do it**What shall we do?**I know he won't be able to do it**I have to go and see it**I am going to see it**He was going to see it**I was going to do it*

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No iba a hacerlo

**No iba a decirle ...**

... que iba a hacerlo para usted

Iba a comprarlo

No iba a encontrarlo

Él iba a estar aquí esta mañana

No iba a esperar

No iba a esperarle

**Sé, lo sé, no lo sé**

No sé dónde está

No puedo encontrarlo

¿Puede decirme dónde está?

¿Podría decirme?

Tengo que saberlo

*He wasn't going to do it*

*I wasn't going to tell you ...*

*... that I was going to do it for you*

*I was going to buy it*

*I wasn't going to find it*

*He was going to be here  
this afternoon*

*I wasn't going to wait*

*I wasn't going to wait for you*

*I know, I know it, I don't know it*

*I don't know where it is*

*I can't find it*

*Can you tell me where it is?*

*Could you / would you be able  
to tell me?*

*I have to know (it)*

saber means 'to know'

sé means 'I know'; sabe, 'he/she knows', 'you know'; sabes 'you know' (informal); saben 'you know', 'they know'

**¿Qué sabe?**

¿Por qué no lo sabes?

*What do you know?*

*Why don't you know (it)?  
(to a friend)*

**Nadie sabe** dónde está

Nadie puede encontrarlo

*Nobody knows where it is*

*Nobody can find it*

sabía means 'I knew', 'he/she knew', 'you knew'; sabías is 'you knew' (informal); sabían 'you knew', 'they knew'

**Lo sabía**

**No lo sabía**

No sabía que usted iba a estar aquí

No iba a decirle ...

... que iba a comprarlo para usted

*I knew (it)*

*I didn't know (it)*

*I didn't know you were going  
to be here*

*I wasn't going to tell you ...*

*... that I was going to buy it for you*

llegar means 'to arrive'

No sabía que ...

... iba a llegar hoy

Yo sabía que todo iba a estar listo

*I didn't know ...*

*... you were going to arrive today*

*I knew everything was going  
to be ready*



Sé que nunca ...  
... voy a poder / podré hacerlo así

*I know that I never ...  
... will be able to do it that way*

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## Recording 2

### ¿Qué hay?

*What is there?*

*¿Qué hay? can also mean 'What's up?', 'What's the matter?', 'What's going on?'*

¿Qué hay para comer?

*What is there to eat?*

¿Qué hay para beber?

*What is there to drink?*

*ofrecer means 'to offer'*

### ¿Puedo ofrecerle algo ...

*Can I offer you something ...*

... para beber?

*... to drink?*

**Sí, pero primero** tengo que ...

*Yes, but first I have to ...*

... hacer una llamada telefónica

*... make a phone call*

... llamar por teléfono

*... telephone*

**Y después**, voy a salir

*And afterwards I'm going to leave*

**PRONUNCIATION OF THE LETTER 'Z'**

*The letter 'z' is always 'th' in Castilian and 's' elsewhere*

**la primera vez**

*the first time*

la segunda vez

*the second time*

la tercera vez

*the third time*

la próxima vez

*the next time*

**dos veces**

*two times, twice*

muchas veces

*many times*

Voy a hacerlo muchas veces

*I'm going to do it many times*

No tengo ganas de hacerlo

*I don't feel like doing it*

No tengo ganas de ir allí solo

*I don't feel like going there alone*

Voy a hacerlo

*I'm going to do it*

Iba a hacerlo

*I was going to do it*

No sabía que iba a estar aquí

*I didn't know you were going to be here*

*If you need clarifiers, put them in!  
Add yo, tú, él / ella, usted where necessary*

<b>Yo</b> no sabía que <b>usted</b> iba a estar aquí	<i>I didn't know you were going to be here</i>
<b>Él</b> no sabía que <b>ella</b> iba a estar aquí	<i>He didn't know she was going to be here</i>
No sabía que iba a salir ...	<i>I didn't know you were going to leave ...</i>
... esta tarde	<i>... this afternoon</i>
Vamos a empezar ...	<i>We are going to start ...</i>
... pronto / en seguida	<i>... soon / right away</i>
... inmediatamente	<i>... immediately</i>
Voy a esperar	<i>I'm going to wait</i>
Iba a esperar	<i>He was going to wait</i>
No iba a esperar	<i>He wasn't going to wait</i>
No sabía ...	<i>I didn't know ...</i>
... que iba a estar aquí ...	<i>... that you were going to be here ...</i>
... hoy / esta mañana	<i>... today / this morning</i>
No sabía ...	<i>I didn't know</i>
... que iban a estar aquí	<i>... that you were (all) going to be here</i>
<b>Generalmente ...</b>	<i>Generally / usually ...</i>

ENGLISH WORDS ENDING IN '-LY'  
*The ending -ly in English is usually -mente in Spanish.  
'specially' is especialmente*

... no lo hago así	<i>... I don't do it that way</i>
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SPECIAL = ESPECIAL

*Words beginning sp-, st- or sc- in English usually start esp-, est- or esc- in Spanish: 'Spain' is España; 'student' estudiante; 'school' escuela.*

ENGLISH WORDS ENDING '-TY'  
*Words ending in -ty usually end in -dad or -dad in Spanish.  
especialidad; libertad; oportunidad; cualidad*

Generalmente no me gusta hacerlo	<i>Generally I don't like doing it</i>
Generalmente no voy allí	<i>Generally I don't go there</i>
<b>A menudo</b>	<i>Often</i>
<b>Frecuentemente</b>	<i>Frequently</i>
<b>Casi nunca</b> voy allí	<i>I almost never go there</i>

acabar *means 'to finish'*  
 acabo de + infinitive (to have just ...) is an easy way of expressing the past tense!

<b>Acabo de ...</b>	<i>I have just ...</i>
Acabo de verlo	<i>I have just seen it</i>
Acaba de salir	<i>He has just left</i>
<b>Acabo de llegar ...</b>	<i>I have just arrived ...</i>
<b>... hace dos días</b>	<i>... two days ago</i>
Acaba de llamarme ...	<i>He has just called me ...</i>
... hace diez minutos	<i>... ten minutes ago</i>
Ella acaba de salir / de irse	<i>She has just gone out / left</i>
Acabo de decirle	<i>I have just told you</i>
Acabo de comprarlo	<i>I have just bought it</i>
Acabo de hablar con él	<i>I have just spoken to him</i>
Acaba de decirme	<i>He has just told me</i>

volver *means 'to come back', 'return'*

<b>Voy a volver / Volveré ...</b>	<i>I'll come back ...</i>
... en seguida / pronto	<i>... right away / soon</i>
<b>Va a volver / Volverá ...</b>	<i>She will come back ...</i>
... muy pronto / más tarde	<i>... very soon / later</i>
Acaba de salir hace diez minutos ...	<i>She has just left ten minutes ago ...</i>
... y va a volver / volverá más tarde	<i>... and she'll come back later</i>
No tengo ganas de salir ahora ...	<i>I don't feel like going out now ...</i>
... porque estoy muy cansado / cansada	<i>... because I'm very tired</i>

preferir *means 'to prefer', prefiero 'I would rather ...'*

<b>Prefiero ...</b>	<i>I would rather / I would prefer to ...</i>
<b>... quedarme aquí</b>	<i>... stay here</i>
Acabo de comprar un libro ...	<i>I have just bought a book ...</i>
... que encuentro muy interesante	<i>... that I find very interesting</i>
Lo encuentro muy interesante	<i>I find it very interesting</i>
Creo que es muy interesante	<i>I think it is very interesting</i>
<b>Hace diez minutos que le espero</b>	<i>I have been waiting ten minutes for you</i>

To say how long you have been waiting, doing something, working etc. use *hace* (literally 'it makes') + *que* + the present tense.

<b>¿Cuánto tiempo hace que ...</b>	<i>How long ...</i>
<b>... está aquí</b> en Madrid?	<i>... have you been here in Madrid?</i>
<b>Quisiera</b> / Me gustaría / Quiero	<i>I would like ...</i>
... hablar con él	<i>... to talk to him</i>
... verlo	<i>... to see it</i>
No está allí	<i>He isn't in / isn't there</i>
¿A qué hora va a estar / estará aquí?	<i>What time will he be here?</i>
<b>¿Sabe a qué hora ...</b>	<i>Do you know what time ...</i>
<b>... va a llegar / llegará / llega?</b>	<i>... he will arrive?</i>
... va a volver / volverá / vuelve?	<i>... he will come back / return?</i>
Puede / Podría decirme ...	<i>Can / Could you tell me ...</i>
... a qué hora estará / va a estar aquí?	<i>... what time he will be here?</i>

*irse* means 'to leave', 'to go away'  
*dejar* means 'to leave (behind)', and also 'to let' (someone do something)

dejar la llave	<i>to leave the key</i>
dejar un mensaje	<i>to leave a message</i>
¿Puede dejarme trabajar?	<i>Can you let me work?</i>
<b>Me gustaría dejar un mensaje</b>	<i>I'd like to leave a message</i>
¿Puedo dejar un mensaje?	<i>Can I leave a message?</i>
¿Puedo dejarle un mensaje?	<i>Can I leave you a message?</i>
¿Puede / Podría decirme ...	<i>Can / Could you tell me ...?</i>
<b>¿Puede / Podría decirle ...</b>	<i>Can / Could you tell him ...</i>
<b>... que le llamaré más tarde?</b>	<i>... that I'll call him later?</i>
... que le llamaré mañana?	<i>... that I'll call him tomorrow?</i>
... que le llamaré la semana que viene?	<i>... that I'll call him next week?</i>

**la próxima vez** *next time*

THREE WORDS FOR 'TIME'  
*vez* has the sense of one of a number of occasions  
*tiempo* is the general word for a period or passing of time  
*hora* is the point of time marked on a clock

una vez, dos veces	<i>once, twice</i>
tres, cuatro, cinco veces	<i>three, four, five times</i>
seis, siete, ocho veces	<i>six, seven, eight times</i>

nueve, diez veces	<i>nine, ten times</i>
once, doce, trece veces	<i>eleven, twelve, thirteen times</i>
catorce, quince veces	<i>fourteen, fifteen times</i>
la primera vez	<i>the first time</i>
<b>Es la última vez</b>	<i>It's the last time</i>

expresar *means 'to express'*, expresarse *'to express oneself'*

No sé cómo expresarlo exactamente ...	<i>I don't know how to express it exactly ...</i>
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exacto (*exact*) becomes exactamente (*exactly*).  
The 'o' changes to 'a' before adding '-mente'  
Another example: seguro becomes seguramente

No sé cómo decirlo exactamente ...	<i>I don't know how to say it exactly ...</i>
... en español	<i>... in Spanish</i>
¿Cómo lo dice en español?	<i>How do you say it in Spanish?</i>
<b>¿Cómo se dice en español?</b>	<i>How does one say it in Spanish?</i>

SPECIAL USE OF 'SE'  
Se is frequently used to mean 'one' or 'you', or to say something 'is done'

<b>Se habla español aquí</b>	<i>One speaks Spanish here</i>
	<i>Spanish is spoken here</i>

escribir *means 'to write'*

le escribo	<i>I write to you</i>
Me escribe a menudo	<i>He writes to me often</i>
... frecuentemente	<i>... frequently</i>
<b>¿Cómo se escribe?</b>	<i>How do you write it / spell it?</i>
¿Puede escribirlo?	<i>Can you write it down?</i>
Escríbalo, por favor	<i>Write it down, please</i>
<b>Se puede ...</b>	<i>One can / It is possible / allowed ...</i>
¿Se puede entrar aquí?	<i>Can one come in?</i>
¿Se puede hacerlo?	<i>Can one do it?</i>
¿Se puede pasar?	<i>Can one pass / come in?</i>
¿Dónde se puede encontrarlo?	<i>Where can one find it?</i>

<b>¿Está seguro de esto?</b>	<i>Are you sure about this?</i>
absolutamente / totalmente	<i>absolutely / totally</i>
<b>Sí, estoy absolutamente seguro</b>	<i>Yes, I'm absolutely sure</i>

*Note that you say seguro if you are a man, segura if you are a woman*

Lo sé porque ...	<i>I know because ...</i>
... acabo de leerlo ...	<i>... I've just read it ...</i>
... en el periódico	<i>... in the newspaper</i>
... en el periódico de hoy	<i>... in today's newspaper</i>
¿Puede / Podría decirme dónde ...	<i>Can / Could you tell me where ...</i>
... puedo encontrar un buen restaurante?	<i>... I can find a good restaurant?</i>
no muy lejos de aquí	<i>not very far from here</i>
Está muy lejos	<i>It's very far, a long way</i>
<b>¿Está lejos de aquí?</b>	<i>Is it far from here?</i>
<b>No, no está lejos de aquí</b>	<i>No, it's not far from here</i>
<b>Está cerca de aquí</b>	<i>It's near here</i>
Puede ir a pie	<i>You can walk</i>
¿Puedo ir a pie?	<i>Can I walk?</i>
Se puede ir a pie	<i>One can walk</i>
Necesito un coche	<i>I need a car</i>

*In Spain a car is un coche, but in Mexico it's un carro*

... para ir al restaurante	<i>... to go to the restaurant</i>
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*'To rent a car' in Spain is alquilar un coche but in Mexico it's rentar un carro*

Quisiera alquilar un coche	<i>I'd like to hire a car</i>
¿Dónde puedo alquilar un coche?	<i>Where can I hire a car?</i>
<b>¿Cuánto es por día?</b>	<i>How much is it per day?</i>
<b>¿Cuánto cuesta ...</b>	<i>How much does it cost ...</i>
<b>... por semana?</b>	<i>... per week?</i>
<b>... por mes?</b>	<i>... per month?</i>

*¿dónde? asks where someone or something is; ¿a dónde? asks where someone is going  
¿Dónde está? but ¿A dónde va?*

<b>¿Puede / Podría decirme ...</b>	<i>Can you / Could you tell me ...</i>
<b>... a dónde ir ...</b>	<i>... where to go ...</i>
... para encontrar lo que quiero?	<i>... to find what I want?</i>
... para encontrar lo que busco?	<i>... to find what I'm looking for?</i>
<b>Me gustaría / Quisiera saber ...</b>	<i>I would like to know ...</i>
<b>... lo que tengo que hacer ...</b>	<i>... what I have to do ...</i>

... para obtener lo que quiero  
 ... para obtener lo que busco

... *to get what I want*  
 ... *to get what I'm looking for*

hay que *means 'one has to'*

**Quiero saber ...**  
**... lo que hay que hacer ...**  
 ... para obtenerlo

*I want to know ...*  
 ... *what one has to do ...*  
 ... *in order to obtain it*

**Me gustaría saber ...**  
**... a dónde hay que ir ...**  
 ... para obtenerlo / encontrarlo  
 ... para comprarlo

*I would like to know ...*  
 ... *where one has to go ...*  
 ... *to have it / to find it*  
 ... *to buy it*

¿Puede darme una explicación?

*Can you give me an explanation?*

*explicar means 'to explain'; una explicación is 'an explanation'*  
*This is an exception to the rule that most English words ending in*  
*'-ation' are identical in Spanish, with the ending '-ación'.*  
*However, remember that most do obey this rule: información, preparación, reservación, etc.*  
*It's also worth noting that the verbs associated with these nouns are all -ar verbs: informar,*  
*preparar, reservar*

¿Puede explicarme dónde está?  
 Gracias

*Can you tell me where it is?*  
*Thank you*

**Le agradezco mucho**  
 Realmente le agradezco mucho

*I thank you very much*  
*I really do thank you very much*

**Estoy enojado / enojada**  
 Estoy muy enojado / enojada

*I'm angry, annoyed*  
*I'm very angry, annoyed*

*In Spain you'll often hear: Estoy enfadado / enfadada, which also means 'I'm annoyed, angry'*

Estoy furioso / furiosa

*I'm furious*

**Me preocupa**

*I'm worried (literally, it preoccupies me)*

Me preocupa mucho

*I'm very worried*

Me preocupa ver esto

*I'm worried about seeing this*

No me preocupa

*I'm not worried*

**Estoy aburrido / aburrida**

*I'm bored*

Estoy muy aburrido

*I'm very bored*

¿Está aburrido?

*Are you bored?*

No me gusta estar aburrido

*I don't like being bored*

Creo que ... / Me parece que ...

*I think ...*

... todo está bien

... *everything is all right*

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Voy a verlo una vez *I'm going to see it once*  
Voy a ir a verlo *I'm going to go and see it*  
No lo veo a menudo *I don't see it often*  
**Por lo menos ...** *At least ...*

menos *means 'less'*; más o menos *means 'more or less'*

... lo veré / voy a verlo una vez *... I'll see it once*

temprano *means 'early'*

¿Puede / puedes / pueden venir ... *Can you come ...*  
... un poco más temprano? *... a little earlier?*

lleno *means 'full'*; llenar *is 'to fill up'*

Está muy lleno *It's very full*  
¿Puede llenarlo? *Can you fill it up?*

limpio *is 'clean'*; sucio *is 'dirty'*

No está muy limpio *It's not very clean*  
Está sucio *It's dirty*  
Es perfecto *It's perfect*  
Perfectamente *Perfectly*

calor *is 'heat'*; frío *is 'cold'*  
*For hot weather you say hace calor (literally 'it makes heat')*  
*But a hot person says tengo calor (literally 'I have heat')*

No me gusta el calor *I don't like the heat*  
**Hace calor / frío hoy** *It's hot / cold (weather)*  
**Tengo calor / frío** *I'm hot / cold*  
¿Tiene frío? *Are you cold?*  
No puedo soportar el calor *I can't stand the heat*

hambre *is 'hunger'*, sed *is 'thirst'*

**Tengo hambre** *I'm hungry*  
Tengo que comer algo ... *I have to eat something ...*  
... porque tengo hambre *... because I'm hungry*  
**Tengo sed** *I'm thirsty*  
Tengo que beber algo ... *I have to drink something ...*  
... porque tengo sed *... because I'm thirsty*



Pienso / Creo que puedo hacerlo ... *I think I can do it ...*  
 ... **yo mismo** ... *myself*

mismo means 'self' and also 'same'; la misma cosa is 'the same thing'; lo mismo is 'the same'

**Quiero lo mismo** *I want the same*  
 Voy a tomar lo mismo *I'm going to take / have the same*  
 No es lo mismo *It's not the same*  
 Estoy (muy) sorprendido *I'm (very) surprised*  
**Me sorprende** *It surprises me*  
 No me sorprende *It doesn't surprise me*  
 Esto / Eso no me sorprende *This / That doesn't surprise me*

traer means 'to bring'; dar 'to give'; mostrar 'to show'

¿Puede traerme algo? *Can / Will you bring me something?*  
 ¿Puede darme algo? *Can you give me something?*  
 ¿Puede mostrarme algo? *Can you show me something?*  
**¿Puede mostrármelo?** *Can you show it to me?*

Note that the personal me (me) comes before the object lo (it) and that they are joined together at the end of the infinitive

**¿Puede traérmelo?** *Can you bring it to me?*  
 ¿Cuándo puede traérmelo ... ? *When can you bring it to me ...?*  
 ... porque lo necesito y ... *... because I need it and ...*  
 ... tengo que tenerlo *... I have to have it*

vivir is 'to live'

¿Dónde vive / vives / viven? *Where do you live?*  
 ¿Usted vive aquí? *Do you live here?*

saber is 'to know' in the sense of knowing a fact or some general knowledge  
 conocer is 'to know' in the sense of being acquainted with somebody or something

Sabe dónde está *He knows where it is*  
**Conozco ...** *I know ...*  
 ... **la ciudad / el país** ... *... the city / the country*

PERSONAL 'A'

Conocer a ... is used for 'to know a person'. Whenever the object of a verb is a person, not a thing, you always insert 'a' between the verb and the person

Voy a llamarle  
 Voy a **llamar a** mi amigo

*I'm going to call / phone him*  
*I'm going to call / phone my friend*

querer *means 'to want' and also 'to love'*

Lo quiere  
 Él **quiere a** su amiga  
 Conozco la ciudad  
**Conozco a** esta señora  
 No conozco Madrid  
**No conozco a** nadie  
 ¿Conoce esta ciudad?  
**¿Conoce a** esta señora?  
 ¿Sabe dónde está?

*He wants it*  
*He loves his girlfriend*  
*I know the city*  
*I know this lady*  
*I don't know Madrid*  
*I don't know anybody*  
*Do you know this city?*  
*Do you know this lady?*  
*Do you know where it is?*

Mi amigo viene aquí ...  
 ... todos los días  
**Suele venir** aquí  
 Suele hacerlo ...  
 ... casi todos los días

*My friend comes here ...*  
*... every day*  
*He usually comes here*  
*He usually does it ...*  
*... almost every day*

quizás, quizá *means 'perhaps, 'maybe'*

**Quizás no le gusta ...**  
 Quizá no le gustaría ...  
 ... quedarse aquí  
 ... porque hay mucha gente

*Perhaps you don't like ...*  
*Perhaps you wouldn't like ...*  
*... to stay here ...*  
*... because there are many people*

la gente *is 'people'; tanto / tanta means 'so much', 'so many'*

**Hay tanta gente** aquí  
 Por mi parte ...  
 ... no voy a quedarme aquí ahora

*There are so many people here*  
*For my part ...*  
*... I'm not going to stay here now*

Hay mucho ruido

*There's a lot of noise*

hay *is 'there is', 'there are'; había 'there was', 'there were';*  
 habrá *'there will be'*

**Había** mucha gente aquí ayer  
**Habrá** mucha gente  
 Había demasiado ruido  
 Habrá mucho ruido

*There were many people here*  
*yesterday*  
*There will be many people*  
*There was too much noise*  
*There will be a lot of noise*

Habrá **mucho más** ruido ...  
 Habrá **mucho menos** ruido ...  
 ... aquí mañana

Espero tener ...  
 Espero que voy a tener ...  
 ... la oportunidad / la ocasión ...  
 ... de verlo

**Espero tener la ocasión ...**

... de ver **a** mis amigos  
 ... de visitar **a** mis amigos

*Note the use of the personal 'a' again*

Voy a llamar **a** mi amigo ...  
 ... para saber si puede venir ...  
 ... con nosotros

*vemos means 'we see';  
 nos vemos 'we see each other', 'we meet'*

**¿A qué hora nos vemos  
 mañana?**

A la misma hora  
 A las diez  
 Vamos a vernos / nos veremos ...

**Nos vemos ...**

**... mañana a la misma hora**

Ahora puedo hacerme entender ...  
 ... en español  
 Me parece que es suficiente  
 ¡Buena suerte!

Le deseo buena suerte

**Adiós, hasta luego**

**¡Buen viaje!**

*There will be much more noise ...  
 There will be much less noise ...  
 ... here tomorrow*

*I hope to have ...  
 I hope I'll have ...  
 ... the opportunity ...  
 ... of seeing it  
 I hope to have the opportunity ...  
 ... to see my friends  
 ... to visit my friends*

*I'm going to phone my friend ...  
 ... to find out if he can come ...  
 ... with us*

*What time shall we meet  
 tomorrow?*

*At the same time*

*At ten o'clock*

*We will meet ...*

*We'll meet ...*

*... tomorrow at the same time*

*Now I can make myself understood ...*

*... in Spanish*

*I think that's enough*

*Good luck!*

*I wish you good luck*

*Goodbye, until soon / until later*

*Have a good journey!*

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